(c) The proposal of the Department for enhancing its technology in the Eleventh Five Year Plan has been forwarded to Planning Commission.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Requirement of spectrum for mobile services

†460. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecommunications requires 42.5 mega hertz spectrum for mobile services;

(b) by when this additional spectrum is likely to be obtained; and

(c) whether defence services would be affected by giving additional spectrum to telecommunication services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The assessment of spectrum requirements to achieve the national targets of mobile telephones has been made and discussions have been held with concerned wireless users including Defence for coordination/release of required spectrum. Alternate media like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) for such existing usages has been planned appropriately.

Bindding process for availing subsidy

461. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telecom companies that emerged successful in the bidding process for availing the subsidy proposed to be extended by Government;

(b) the areas specified for creating infrastructure in the country as a whole and Andhra Pradesh in particular;

(c) whether the subsidy being extended is limited to rural areas only; and

(d) if so, whether it would create dual rate policy to the subscribers of rural and urban areas by the service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A scheme has recently been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites constituting 81 Clusters covering 500 districts in 27 States. A Statement containing summary of the successful bidders in 81 Clusters for Part-A and Part-B of the scheme along with the number of towers is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) A Statement indicating the State-wise number of towers to be set up in the country including Andhra Pradesh is given in Statement-II (*See* below). The details

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of towers being set up in Andhra Pradesh is given in Statement-III (*See* below). The District-wise, village-wise locations of these towers can be accessed on DoT website (*www.dot.gov.in*).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Statement-I

Summary of Successful Bidders in 81 Clusters for Part-A and Part-B of the scheme vis-a-vis the allocation number of clusters to bidders

Part-A

Sl. No.	Name of Bidder	No. of Clusters for which successful
1	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	63
2	GTL Infrastructure Limited	4
3	Hutchison Essar Cellular Limited	1
4	Hutchison Essar South Limited	3
5	National Information Technologies Limited	4
6	Quipo Telecom Infrastructure Limited	1
7	Reliance Communications Infrastructure Limited	5
	TOTAL:	81

Part-B

Sl. No.	Group Company	Name of Bidder	Total No. of Clusters allocated
1	2	3	4
1	Hutch	Aircel Digilink India Limited	7
		Fascel Limited	1
		Hutchison Essar Cellular Limited	10
		Hutchison Essar South Limited	14
		TOTAL:	32
2	Dishnet	Aircel Limited	3
		Dishnet Wireless Limited	16
		TOTAL:	19
3	BSNL	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	59
4	Bharti	Bharti Airtel Limited	10
		Bharti Hexacom Limited	3
		TOTAL:	13

1	2	3	4
5	Idea	BTA Cellcom Limited	12
		Idea Cellular Limited (Idea)	12
		Idea Mobile Communications Limited	3
		TOTAL:	27
6	Reliance	Reliance Communications Limited	53
		Reliance Telecom Limited	40
		TOTAL:	93
		GRAND TOTAL:	243

Statement-II

State-wise details of number of Towers to be set up in the Country

State	Number of Districts	No. of Towers
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	22	581
Arunachal Pradesh	12	62
Assam	20	90
Bihar	37	489
Chhattisgarh	16	560
Gujarat	4	66
Haryana	8	14
Himachal Pradesh	11	295
Jammu & Kashmir	12	178
Jharkhand	18	305
Karnataka	26	427
Kerala	11	46
Madhya Pradesh	45	985
Maharashtra	33	1017
Manipur	9	95
Meghalaya	7	102
Mizoram	8	71
Nagaland	7	56
Orissa	30	432
Punjab	3	13
Rajasthan	32	411

1	2	3
Sikkim	3	8
Tamil Nadu	27	371
Tripura	4	147
Uttar Pradesh	66	666
Uttaranchal	13	217
West Bengal	16	167
COUNTRYWIDE TOTALS:	500	7871

Statement-III

Details of Towers to be set up in Andhra Pradesh

Cluster No.	State	Name of Districts	No. of towers
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	29
		Karimnagar	24
		Medak	21
		Nizamabad	22
		TOTAL:	96
2	Andhra Pradesh	Nalagonda	39
		Rangareddy	16
		Warangal	38
		TOTAL:	93
3	Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari	11
		Khammam	27
		Krishna	12
		Srikakulam	12
		Vishakapatnam	11
		Vizianagaram	17
		West Godavari	8
		TOTAL:	98
4	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	16
		Mahbubnagar	47
		Prakasam	38
		TOTAL:	101
5	Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	52
		Kuroool	47
		TOTAL:	99

1	2	3	4
6	Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	39
		Cuddapah	27
		Nellore	28
		TOTAL:	94
		G. TOTAL:	581

Consumers of BSNL mobile phones

462. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumers of BSNL mobile phones of bordering districts of Bihar have to pay roaming charges as the capacity of towers of West Bengal are more powerful than of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government would take to safeguard the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, BSNL does not have roaming charges. Although power capability of radio systems are same across the country, a subscriber can get signals of adjoining districts of the States. In such case, subscriber is treated as roaming subscriber and is suitably charged.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Efforts are taken by BSNL to limit signals across border of a State but this can at best be minimized and not eliminated.

Supply of cellular equipment for BSNL

463. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tendering process for supply of cellular equipment for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been badly delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to enable BSNL to compete with other private players of Telecom industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c)Yes, Sir. The procurement efforts received a setback with one of the bidder approaching the Hon'ble High Court against the decision of BSNL rejecting its bid. The case was withdrawn in April' 07. Advance Purchase Order (APO) has now been placed on the